Statement

Yardstick for Selecting the Areas for setting up a Rural Post office in the country

(i) Population

(a) In normal areas:—

3000 population in a group of villages (including the proposed post office village);-

(b) In hilly, tribal, desertand inaccessible areas:—

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages, (ii) Distance

(a) In normal areas:—

The minimum distance from the existing post office will be 3 kms;

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:—

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) aniticipated income:

(a) In normal area:—

The minimum. anticipated income will be 33!/?% of cost;

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and incaccessible areas:—

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

Replacement of existing Telephone Instruments by Push Button ones

87. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of push button telephones that have been procured or are proposed to be procured by different Circles/DOT from private manufacturers of the country in the near future;

(b) what is the number of push button telephones provided, so far in Gujarat and Orissa; and

(c) what is the time frame within which the existing telephone instruments will be replaced by push-button telephones in the country and in Gujarat and Orissa Circle?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) (i) 24.46 lakhs EPBT Instruments procured upto December, 1991.

(ii) Orders for 5.45 Lakhs EPBT instruments are under issue.

(b) (i) Gujarat—128015 Nos.
(ii) Orissa—9050 Nos.

(c) All the existing old type of Telephone Instruments are expected to be replaced by March, 1994 in Gujarat and Orissa Telecom. Circle and within next 5 years in the country.

Delivery of mail in Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Sholapur

88. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided by the Postal authority not to deliver mail at doorsteps in Greater Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Sholapur;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representations protesting against the above decision have been received from the residents of the cities; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir, Mail Delivery Order, 1991 requires all addressees in multi-storeyed buildings except those residing at the ground floor to provide mail boxes for delivery of un-registered mail addressed to them. However, transitory relaxation has been permitted in implementation of the order to allow continuance of door delivery to addressees who have not yet been able to provide the box so as to enable smooth transition. The above position holds goods for Greater Bombay, Pune, Nagpur and Sholapur also.

(b) The mail box scheme has been introduced to expedite and improve delivery of mail.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government is reviewing the order to make suitable modifications taking account of the various difficulties expressed by the representationists.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

89. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Maharashtra during the year 1992 and the number of such exchanges earmarked for Pune district?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): 354 new electronic exchanges of various types are likely to be set up during 1992 in Maharashtra. Of these, 21 Nos. have been earmarked for Pune district.

Setting up of a Speed Post Corporation

90. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to set up a separate "Speed Post Corporations";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when this Corporation will start its functioning;

(d) what are the names of the cities in the country where the facilities of 'Speed Post' will be provided under this scheme; and

(e) what plan is being formulated by Government for the immediate delivery of letters and parcels?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A departmental Committee was set up recently to examine this issue and the. Committee has since submitted its report, which is under the consideration of the Government.

(e) In order to cater to the requirement of immediate delivery of letters/parcels speed post services have already been provided in 61 key commercial centres inter linking them with each other and in another 340 pairs of stations on point to point basis. The coverage under speed post network is being increased progressively.

Public Telephone Booths in Students Hostels

91. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing card operated public telephone booths in all the students hostels of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to cover all the students' hostels irrespective of their being in schools, colleges and universities;

(c) what is the number of student hostels in the State of Madhya Pradesh which have been provided with card operated public telephones, so far; and

(d) by when all the remaining students' hostels in Madhya Pradesh will be provided such telephones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No Sir, there is no proposal to provide card operated Public Telephone Booths in all Student hostels. However, the Government has recently liberalised the procedure for opening of public telephone booths with a view to increase the availability of as well as accessibility to such facilities in all places including student hostels through out the country. The public telephone booths that are provided may be either card/coin operated type or ordinary type with electronic display and printer facility/call logger.

(b) Priority will be gievn to provide